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Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General reports to Security Council on steps to support investigation by European delegation of reports of rape of Muslim women in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia energetically reacts to acts of political violence in various parts of country, says UNTAC Spokesman; Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia to meet Prince Sihanouk in Beijing tomorrow.

+ In Cairo, Secretary-General meets his Special Representative for Middle East talks, Chinmaya Gharekhan of India; meets also with Foreign Minister of Egypt.

+ Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) protests General Assembly resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina, which it says ignored "causes for outbreak of civil war in that Republic"; Bosnia and Herzegovina submits reports of human rights violations in city of Banja Luka by Serbian and Montenegrin forces.

+ Czech Republic submits application for membership in United Nations.

+ In letters to Security Council, Sudan complains against Egyptian military intervention in area adjoining Sudanese governorate of Halayib and Egypt denies any presence of its troops in Sudanese territory south of 22nd parallel.

+ World Food Programme announces launching of special emergency operation to feed tens of thousands of demobilized Mozambican government and Mozambique National Resistance Movement soldiers.

+ Commissioner-General of UNRWA expresses serious concern about rapidly deteriorating health of many of the Palestinians deported to southern Lebanon by Israel; appeals to international community to find ways of providing emergency humanitarian assistance.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has reported to the Security Council on steps he has taken to support European initiatives to investigate reports of rape of women, particularly Muslim women, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Condemning what it called "massive, organized and systematic rape" of Bosnian Muslim women, the Council in mid-December had asked the Secretary-General to provide support to enable the European Community delegation to get free and secure access to the places of detention.

From 18 to 24 December, such a delegation, headed by Dame Anne Warburton, and including Mme Simone Veil and a number of experts in forensic psychiatry, clinical psychology, law and social anthropology, visited Geneva and Zagreb. The Foreign Minister of Ireland, David Andrews, also participated in the Geneva meetings.

The Secretary-General reported that the delegation held intensive discussions with representatives of the Geneva Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Centre for Human Rights and the Commission of Experts on War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said further visits were under consideration and that he had asked the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force in former Yugoslavia (UNPROFOR) to provide support to the delegation, as soon as requirements are known.
Document S/25052

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The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has energetically reacted to acts of political violence which had occurred in various parts of the country, most notably in the zones controlled by the Party of the State of Cambodia, the Spokesman for UNTAC said today.

He was responding to questions at a news briefing relating to Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Prince Ranariddh's view that UNTAC was not doing enough to protect political parties.

The Spokesman went on to say that the Secretary-General's Special Representative to Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, had issued a statement concerning the creation of a neutral political environment, which should encourage the enjoyment by the Cambodian people of three basic freedoms: the freedom from intimidation, freedom of party affiliation and freedom of action for political parties.

The Spokesman also said that Mr. Akashi, who had arrived back from Malaysia this morning, would be leaving for Beijing tomorrow, when he was scheduled to have a private visit with Prince Sihanouk.

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Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali met today in Cairo with his Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Talks, Chinmaya Gharekhan of India, a United Nations spokesman told correspondents at Headquarters.

Mr. Gharekhan will go on a mission to Israel following a recent trip to the area by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, James O.C. Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs. The Secretary-General has described the first mission as "unsuccessful" in finding a solution to the Israeli deportation of over 400 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to southern Lebanon.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali was also scheduled to meet today with the Prime Minister of Egypt.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has protested the resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted by the General Assembly in mid-December, which it says portrayed the situation in that region as "a foreign aggression" and ignored "the causes for the outbreak of the civil war in that Republic".

In a letter, dated 29 December, addressed to the Secretary-General, the Yugoslav Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dragomir Djokic, said the resolution had singled out the Serbian and Montenegrin side in Bosnia for atrocities such as ethnic cleansing and running of detention camps, while disregarding the "horrendous crimes" committed by the Muslim and Croatian side against the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a separate development, Bosnia and Herzegovina has submitted reports of violations of human rights in the city of Banja Luka by Serbian and Montenegrin forces there. In a letter to the President of the Security Council, Muhamed Sacirbey, Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, said the documents concern genocidal crimes committed by Serb and Montenegrin forces against non-Serb civilians, including mass executions and deportations. According to the letter, the documents also show official plans to "ethnically cleanse" the city of Banja Luka, as well as illicit oil import in tanker trucks, bearing seal of Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to bypass the economic embargo.
A/47/847, S/25049.

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The Czech Republic has applied for membership in the United Nations, according to its Prime Minister, Vaclav Klaus, in a letter addressed to Secretary-General, dated 31 December.

In an annex to the letter, he stated that the Czech Republic was willing to accept and carry out the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations.

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The Slovak Republic has already submitted its application for membership in the United Nations.

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The Government of Sudan has complained against a recent Egyptian military intervention in the area adjoining the Sudanese governorate of Halayib, area which lies to the north of the 22nd parallel. Halayib was a "part" of the Sudan before the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium and remained under Sudanese sovereignty after independence in 1956.

A letter from the Sudanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ali Ahmed Sahloul, addressed to the President of the Security Council, dated 31 December, says that the territorial dispute had arisen anew whenever there had been misunderstanding and a divergence of viewpoint between the two countries regarding certain national and regional issues and questions.

For about a year, Mr. Sahloul said, the Egyptian Government has been taking measures that Sudan regards as aimed at a gradual change of identity and situation in the Sudanese area of Halayib so that the area will eventually become subject to Egypt. The greatest and most serious of those developments, he notes, was the blatant aggression committed by the Egyptian forces that infiltrated 28 kilometres into Sudanese territory on 9 December 1992 south of Halayib and set up a number of camps in Sudanese territory.

In response to the Sudanese letter, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, Amre Moussa, in a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 3 January, says that document contains a number of "allegations aimed at prejudicing Egypt's sovereignty over its territory" and denies any Egyptian presence in Sudanese territory south of the 22nd parallel.

According to Mr. Moussa, the Sudanese Government has persisted in stirring up a number of problems for non-objective ends that are at variance with the nature of the relations that link the two countries. He emphasized his Government's willingness to deal with the territorial issue in a friendly atmosphere, within the framework of a Joint Commission set up by the two countries last year.

Mr. Moussa expressed his Government's surprise by the decision by the Sudanese side to refer this matter to the Security Council. Such an action should be considered as a pretext by Sudan to cease participation in the work of the Joint Commission, he said.
S/25041, S/25051

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The World Food Programme (WFP) yesterday announced it was launching a special emergency operation to help tens of thousands of demobilized Mozambican government and Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) soldiers.

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The WFP - the food aid organization of the United Nations - will provide food rations for at least half a year to some 120,000 former RENAMO and Frente de Liberacao de Mozambique (FRELIMO) soldiers, and their families.

Under the terms of the October 1992 Peace Accord, an estimated 62,000 government and 20,000 RENAMO soldiers are scheduled to hand in their arms to the United Nations at 49 designated assembly points being set up throughout the country. For the next six months or so, WFP will provide basic food rations for the soldiers and their dependants, while they return to civilian life. The food and transportation costs are estimated at $5.8 million.

The programme will deliver over 14,000 metric tons of maize, rice, beans, oil and sugar, while the Government has agreed to provide bread, fish, meat and salt.

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Ilter Turkmen, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), has expressed serious concern about the rapidly deteriorating health of many of the 415 Palestinians - including 16 UNRWA staff members - who are stranded in southern Lebanon following their deportation by Israel.

He says that some 60 cases of diarrhoeal disease have been reported by the medical doctors among the deportees due to a shortage of fresh water and inadequate sanitary facilities. Doctors also fear that one deportee, with a kidney dysfunction, may suffer kidney failure. Without access to normal medical facilities, doctors at the site cannot make precise medical diagnoses. He further added that weather in the location continues to be cold and windy and most of the deportees suffer joint aches because of exposure.

Mr. Turkmen urged the international community to act quickly to find ways of providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the deportees.

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